

Andres Mourelatos Transcription

K: I am doing an interview with Andres Mourelatos, my grand father. Okay Papuoo

Andres: Okay this is Andres Mourelatos. I am the grandson of my beautiful jewelry. Switch she was born in San Francisco I have seen her grown up for 20 almost 22 years with, by me, close to me because we live in the same city in San Francisco. And umm now she is a grown up girl she is preparing to go to college. College right?

K: I'm in College

Andres: Preparing to

K: Graduate

Andres: Preparing to graduate and umm this information is I hope are helping her for any reasons she asked me to and of you meet

K When and where were you born?

Andres: I born in Athens Greek in 18th July 25. I am of course almost you know 89 years

K: Okay how was your life in Greece when you lived there?

Andres: What?

K: How is your life in Greece?

Andres: A young very active young boy. Un married of course. And Umm I was working in Bank of America, umm Bank of Greece I few years before I came to America. I have I was released from the military been there for 3 ½ for the release of the Greece. And separating the Greece the government ways from the underground ummm revolutionaries, which we finished in almost 3/12 years

K: So?

Andres: That was the umm after three years I went to army for 48

K: 1948

Andres: And I released 3 1/2 years later. And then I went to the try to study and be in school of economic school. And I got employed at the ummm at the Greek ummm Greek bank

K: You can say it in Greek

Andres: Bank

K: Okay

Andres: Yes

K: Umm so During the War in Greece like how was it?

Andres: During the war was student. Um I mean not student. The high school erupts. We were learning here and there in the empty lands very very poor education outside of school. Very just whenever we could find time to be together is was destroyed years. I gradated very poorly tats why I could not go to politic umm the school I wanted to go and because I went army I, I get the opportunity to get the job and a different to the public um to the Greek government. And umm then I finished a think I wanted I give examinations with economic now school and then I got a position. And I did that positions to be able to be something else then an engineer or architected. Then I met my wife. Which was an opportunity for me to no matter if I am in the poor umm position and I wasn't happy to be that and

K uhuhumm

Andres: I came to America and

K: SO you came to maybe have another umm

Andres: opportunity

K: another career choice

Andres: yea yea

K: And umm how did your family feel about you coming?

Andres: ooohhh

K: Ha

Andres: We were three children and then my brother left Greece he was a chemistry department of the university and he, he dreamed to come to America, to change and be chemist. And he did and he already started to hurting means to father sister and being the only one left out of three of us then my sister and being married to English speaking very good English got a job a IBM he became very top men and how do you call it he mikey he went to Paris and brother in Law he took all his family to Paris. And then another hurt from my grandma and my mother in practically my mother and my father and then at the time it was me who we just gave them the hurt the hurt of burning terrible hurt uhhh how you call it uneasiness terrible feeling to my grandma mother and father but that was the

main one going back and forth I decided to do something to Greece to satisfy them to know I am going to come back and I did and I am happy to do it but I want happy to have it done 3rd time to her which I know how much they room their children not being there.

K: Do you know when you became a citizen of the United States?

Andres: three years later yes

K: Okay

Andres: yes threes years later I became

K: So 1957

Andres: Yes this is how long... I don't know if in my licensees

K: No it doesn't say

Andres: It could be from 1999, it could be form right now even exactly I became. Because I was driving in Greece and I don't know there for it can be very close to it

K: Okay and then when you came to America you came to San Francisco and how did you, you decide to support yourself? Or did you know how you were going to support yourself?

Andres: employed?

K: Yes, like your support you and yaya?

Andres: It was right away the next week I was employed by uhh my cousin an old cousin of mine which I knew from Greece he was a book binding company and then I employed by him right away

K: Did you know any English?

Andres: Hmmm

K: Did you know any English?

Andres: uhh

K: Did you know any English when you came?

Andres: ohh no ha

K: haha

Andres: No nothing just like now I know nothing English
K: haha you know English now

Andres: No haha

K: okay so what other job did you have?

Andres: Work and then

K: after the bookbinding did you have another job?

Andres: oh yea right away after two three weeks I found a through the newspaper I found and found asking for inking drafting architectural work.

K: uhuh

Andres: and that was my experience build up up my satisfaction work which I wanted and always my dream to be in the atmosphere of architectonical atmosphere which I succeed I succeed in fact I never asked for any increase If someone reads that you will understand that I never ask for an increase and the before after years five years long I earned salary of equal to the license architectural license men professional

K: okay umm and then you did architectural for your rest of your life

A: Prartin Me

K: and you did architectural and engineering work for the rest of your life

Andres: only employed nothing else

K: Yes so for he rest of you life that's what you did

Andres: Yes

K: Okay how did you learn English?

Andres: As I was working I went into to say a night ahh a say year no because you were born and then your were 6 months old probably as much as you were an infant to become a year old as a American me, America 6 months you

K: You went to like night class:

Andres: Yes night school yes for 6 months. But being working and working overtime and working overtime in architectural form. I forced I was I'm not good in English in learning languages But I picked up what I wanted to stay in my profession which I was my reason in make me to overcome the umm the difficult

K: Yea Okay so when you came umm did you feel American or did you want to be American

Andres: Yea because I have the right to apply for papers

K: No I mean besides Not counting papers did you feel American and did you want to be American

Andres: Yes Definitely this was my opportunity to become what I wanted to become

K: Did you ever feel discriminated or treated differently because you were Greek?

Andres: No the opposite I was I make me people around me were professional people and they would appreciate to be with me and they express the umm the free expression of a Greek person to working with them based on anything that's why I succeed be Greek descent make me realize and appreciative not only from my co works but from my up right personal person of the companies which I work in the biggest after the first year I got another job for three years and then another job for three years always in the top offices because I was I would say I don't I don't want to be egoistic but It is the fact I was stepping up umm they in heritage that I was carrying on and idea and everything was very good and effective.

(Other talking took out)

Andres: In conclusion of all the experience that I have around umm artificial forms is the fact I was awarded by my own job and my design in san Francisco I received an award I worked for many high school I build I was up in getting title ling getting title how do you call it

(Other talking took out)

K: Do you feel American now or do you still feel American?

Andres: Yes, I feel American but I don't like it I'm against American now. Don't put in I say that

K: What makes you feel like that/ like why are you against? Do you wish you always stayed in Greece are you happy you came here?

(Other talking took out)

Andres: As long as I live in the United States it makes me more mad to united states that is what because it gives me everything but takes me everything
(Other talking, take out)

Andres: What I was trying to close it out and umm lots of succeed work I have created in San Francisco Boom there close it to that experience in my career then the question asking me I would like to respond because I is the reason and affect y reason my relation with you my daughter with my everybody I am very straight born and raised a Greek young men from ummm a influent by traditional European family activities I was born and raised from umm a family which meant and control by the relatives first yaya papu uncles aunts And all this family and cousins I feel like this is what the problem is today that the families in American and I don't like it how our grand youngsters are growing up here and I pull it for responsible is the American society that has ended and been disturbed umm destroyed and be a way rightness of growing children and unfamiliar atmosphere in the United States

K: okay What Greek Values have always held onto?

ANDRES: what Greek?

K: Values or traditions have you always held on to

Andres: That exactly the opposite of this,

K: Okay

Andres: the opposite of what is going on we do not what is right and what is wrong in the united states also at the Greek you have felt the same

K: But personally through out your time in America and like raising your kids what Greek values have you held onto and passed onto your kids

Andres: I don't think I have lost any values, affective by Greek and European way of growing but I felt a family can be regardless if a family growing children is in America but wanted to be in good places or in Greece it will make it good. If you understand me what I said

K: Yea but there is nothing specific you can name? For the values closet to the family

Andres: Values?

K: Do you have any specific values you can name that you have hold on to/?

Andres: The values that had to do with Greek grandchild family holding not the family with young children family with older children to have good line

K: Okay what role has the church played in your life? Or your family life when you were here

Andres: Always I was I don't know I you know how much I was evolved with the church all the three churches have my touch they have my first of all the biggest work very strong quality (?) was the engineering of the domes of the structure domes of hall trinity (?) it has been awarded the way I figure of the designer of the building of hall of trinity it was designed but it wasn't stuck how to put the dome create the dome on top of the church it was stuck stuck continuous because they could not figure out other design you could put the lines together but the lines how to build they could not be build. Then I was hired on market street Lionel read and tariques(?) 31:11) there was three other architectures (?) Three architectures and one structure grin and they hired me an I was introduced by embth? By the first office which he has me and gave me very good service I reward also in (?) for the first office and for the second office I was that and in the first office I was project of paternity project of san Francisco office of surrounding city and then embth was architect for that project I his office and he introduced me to that (?) engineers of the other office he had trouble with structure pull it together structure from the architectural point of view and we need some help over there he said that Andres Mourelatos and you will get what you want to get and that's what they did you remember on top of looking the curvy the curve open window, what did I did , put half triangle over here and emitting the two together (?) like a cut orange juice in eight pieces flat that eight piece I made them model in just model to the 16 of them each and I present to them slowly they were looking and they were looking at me how I was going to fit it that was the salvation of the design that is another award. (?) Was taking the award (?) got the award and send me to get the award

(Conversation not relevant)

K: Was that the only church dome you did?

Andres: The church of Oakland. At the end of the window hanging and we put the glass colors glasses and the Belmont I made all the again the dome which was a ball of a (?) ball

K: Basketball?

Andres: No Bigger because it was that side. Children not that a ball playing was too big anyway and then that's (?) Our church our annunciation I made drawings for the elevator before you remember before when you were little

K: No

Andres: You remember the church big church when you were growing up. Yes you remember

K: I don't know

Andres: you were there. Underneath the two urns

K: Yea

Andres: Any ways, I will show you one day the deign exterior design at that time I was breaking off because one of the lawyers older than you the lawyer (?) outside the president

K: I don't know

Andres: who's the president?

K: I don't know who the president is

Andres: You know the president the young man

K: Norris

Andres: Yes you know him, He put the wrong information. But I don't care I made it and I have it (?) okay (37: 30)

K: Bedsides all the architectural stuff did the church help shape you and your family in America. Have the Greek connection

Andres: Greek very big connection. I was Vice president (?) you know (?) (37: 40) I was up for the church vice president as the mater of fact you grand pa (?) (38:00) I was after r him with him at the time we owned the building next door the apartments before we tear them down. Papu with me and just we decide to tear them down. By them and tear them down and we did it period. Because he was suffering with the troubles to occupy I. (?) got in mind the design before we buy the next apartments and because I wanted to also (?) before we got it but it was too late because the new architect and he tried to build and design something I was against

K: How do you want to be remembered when you're gone.

Andres: A Son of Bitch

K: haha Papu haha with all the history you have zone what do you wan to stick

Andres: my life becoming bitter and bitter and bitter

K: I know but you had all those great stuff so what do you want you family and society and community to think in like 50 years ha in a long time

Andres: You fine ask question

K: Well you are a tough man

Andres: I will not be ready to answer

K: No Okay

Andres: Because I do not know the end, when is the end a year a month

K: Well right now

Andres: well that's why a month a year two year three year this my feeling my goal is to make a better as a better grand children that live behind me as better nor a as like (?) 41:10 I don't like my ability to drive it nor my grandchildren no body know the future for them can create or bring neither I but I wish to say this what makes me to be so energetic so stubborn and looking for the best not the best for me but for the best for church the best for the streets of san Francisco the best my fortune but what is my fortune If you don't give me humans as a grandchildren I can not make my wife my daughter or my sons but I have excuse no excuse but excuse to the fact I found and went through but how can I be not give English language to myself English language to my grandchildren and give them not language but good characters good humans all together is impossible in life its not enough if you gain one you will lose the other one that is the gods will and that is exactly what I believe in this world

K: Is there anything else you want to say before it's over

Andres: I want to say God helped me to transfer those feelings to my grandchildren

K: Okay are you done?

Andres: Thank You